



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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A. BACKGROUND

Project Name / Type: Special Recreation Permit (2930) Renewal

NEPA Register Number: DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2016-0011-CX

Case File Number: AA078675/ AA084084

Location(s):

Tangle River Milepost 21.5 Denali Highway
Rock Creek Milepost 23.5 Denali Highway
Clearwater Creek Milepost 55.5 Denali Highway
Brushkana Creek Milepost 104 Denali Highway

Applicant (if any): Cecilia Kleinkuaf: Women Fly Fishing
Rick McMahan: Denali Fly Fishing Guides

Description of Proposed Action: The proposed activity would reauthorize guided fishing trips that would originate from the road system and utilize BLM administered lands along the Denali Highway that are most suitable for the activity. Two permit renewal requests have been received by commercial operators to conduct guided fishing trips. The trips would consist of small groups of three to five (3-5) individuals including the guide to road accessible streams, along the Denali Highway including Brushkana Creek, Rock Creek, Clearwater Creek, and Tangle River. The focus of these trips is fly fishing instruction and techniques.

Each operator has held and met all previous Special Recreation Permit (SRP) requirements spanning over the past ten years. Leave No Trace practices are strictly adhered to setting an example for client and visitors alike. If approved this renewal would be valid for ten years (2016-2026) pending all permit requirements are met annually and there no significant changes to the existing operations plan or planning area.

Women's Fly Fishing

Cecilia Klienkauf primarily does one three day trip annually in late July or August. Focus areas include Tangle River, Rock Creek, and Clearwater Creek. Local lodges are used for accommodations. With a total of 4-5 clients each summer.

Denali Fly Fishing Guides

Rick McMahan provides day trips out of Cantwell June through August each summer focusing on the west end of the Denali Highway. Brushkana mile post 105 and Seattle Creek mile post

B. LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE

Applicable Land Use Plan: East Alaska Resource Management Plan (EARMP) and Record of Decision (ROD), September 2007

The proposed action is in conformance with the plan even though it is not specifically provided for because it is clearly consistent with the following planning decisions (EARMP ROD, p. 35):

M. Recreation

M-1: Goal

Manage recreation to maintain a diversity of recreational opportunities.

6. Other Areas

Areas outside those identified above would be managed as Extensive Recreation Management Areas, with recreation management based on maintenance of existing ROS classes in the areas. Inventory and monitoring could occur and standards may be identified for trail density in these areas based on monitoring and inventory information. Some education/interpretation at trailheads may occur, particularly at 17(b) easement trailheads within these areas.

C. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with United States Department of the Interior 43 CFR 46.210 or United States Department of the Interior Manual, Part 516, Chapter 11, which provides:

H.1: Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impacts no more than 3 (cumulative) staging area acres; and/or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use plan. This CX cannot be used for commercial boating permits along Wild and Scenic Rivers. This CX cannot be used for the establishment or issuance of Special Recreation Permits for “Special Area” management (43 CFR 2932.5).

D. EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

The proposed action must be screened against the Extraordinary Circumstances found in 43 CFR § 46.215 (listed below). Any “yes” finding requires that an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement be prepared for the Proposed Action.

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES		YES/NO
1. Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety.		No

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES	YES/NO
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	No
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	No
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	No
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	No
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	No
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.	No
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	No
9. Violate Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	No
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	No
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).	No
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).	No

E. SIGNATURE

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable land use plan and is an action that can be categorically excluded. The Proposed Action does not trigger any of the Extraordinary Circumstances found in 516 FM Chapter 2, Appendix 2. I recommend that the Proposed Action be allowed and that no further environmental analysis is required.

/s/ Mike Sondergaard, Acting for

4/26/2016

Dennis C. Teitzel
Glennallen Field Manager

Date